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2nd Annual Battle of the Badges Charity Softball Game Held Saturday, Sept. 9th

Whitfield County, Ga – First responders from Whitfield County and the City of Dalton answered the call, on Saturday, September 9th, for the second annual Battle of the Badges charity softball game. The event took place at Riverbend Park and delivered a memorable day of friendly competition, community engagement, and charitable giving. Whitfield County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO), Whitfield County Fire Department (WCFD), Dalton Police Department (DPD), and Dalton Fire Department (DFD) were all represented on the diamond.

The first Battle of the Badges was played in 2022, between WCSO and DPD, with a goal to raise money for local charities, and interact with the community outside of their traditional roles. Setting sights even higher in 2023, local law enforcement extended the invitation to the city and county fire departments. “We were thrilled to be a part of the event this year,” said WCFD Chief Ed O’Brien, “We all have a mutual respect amongst each-other, and it’s fun to come together for some softball and raise money for our community.”

Three 9-inning games were played throughout the day. WCSO vs. DPD and WCFD vs. DFD were held on opposing fields. Afterwards, players combined forces to represent their jurisdiction for an All-Star game. The game was started with the National Anthem, performed by Lizzy Stucky. The Southeast High School Chorus would start the All-Star game with a beautiful rendition of “God Bless America”. First pitches were thrown by Senator Chuck Payne, and the family of late Bobbie Dixon, who formally served as Whitfield County Coroner for 24 years.

WCSO and WCFD fell short to the city this year, but had a great time and look forward to meeting again next year. “I think the participants, as well as those in attendance, thoroughly enjoyed themselves with the competition between the departments,” said WC Sheriff Scott Chitwood, “I heard nothing but positive comments, and we look forward to 2024.”

Ultimately, the event raised over \$6,000 and all proceeds will benefit, Shop with a Hero, the Grace and Joy House, and the Special Olympics.

The agencies would also like to extend a thank you to event sponsors who either donated monetarily or with event raffle prizes: Alan’s Automotive, Alliant Health Plans, AMC Movie Theater, The Butcher’s Market, Cheesecake Heaven, The Cohutta General Store, Cowboy Coffee Cantina, Cyra’s Restaurant, Discount Sporting Goods, Downtown Dalton Development Authority, Dr. Chung’s Office, Engineered Floors, The Fraternal Order of Police, HB1 Solutions, Helton Tire & Off Road, Home Depot, Honey Baked Ham, Jack’s Pawn Shop, LA Transmissions, Lowe’s, Nacho’s Carniceria, Red Wolfe Grill, Retro Bowl Shaw Industries, Silva’s Mechanical Bull, Stroll N’ Shine, Subway (Rocky Face), The Local Restaurant, Tractor Supply, Walmart, Whitfield County, William’s Plastic Surgery, and Wolf Engineering.